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## Two Stars whose Velocities are Variable.

The following two stars have been shown to have variable velocities in the line of sight from observations obtained with the Mills spectrograph:—

### $\tau$ *Ursae Majoris.*

$(\alpha = 9^h\ 2^m.7;\ \delta = +63^\circ\ 55'.)$

| Plate. | Date. | Velocity. | Measured by |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1620D | 1900 Jan. 22 | — 5 | Campbell. |
| | | —3.8 | Stebbins. |
| 2377A | 1902 April 15 | — 10 | Reese. |
| | | — 10.2 | Stebbins. |
| 2624E | Dec. 30 | — 4 | Curtis. |
| | | — 6.0 | Burns. |
| 3107F | 1903 Dec. 25 | — 9.7 | Moore. |
| 4181E | 1906 Jan. 29 | — 1 | Moore. |
| | | — 1.5 | Burns. |

The type of spectrum given by Harvard is XII *C*. The binary character of this star was suspected by Mr. Stebbins from the second plate and confirmed by the recent measures of Messrs. Moore and Burns.

### $\mu$ *Ursae Majoris.*

$(\alpha = 10^h\ 16^m.4;\ \delta = +42^\circ\ 0'.)$

| Plate. | Date. | Velocity. | Measured by |
|---|---|---|---|
| 309A | 1897 Feb. 24 | — 24 | Campbell. |
| | | —27.4 | Burns. |
| 689A | 1898 March 31 | — 20 | Campbell. |
| | | — 22.0 | Burns. |
| 1201C | 1899 March 6 | — 20 | Campbell. |
| | | — 19.1 | Burns. |
| 3208D | 1904 April 11 | — 16 | Moore. |
| | | — 16.2 | Burns. |
| 4151D | 1906 Jan. 4 | — 23 | Moore. |

The spectrum is of type M. The variation seems to have been suspected earlier, but was confirmed by the recent approximate measures of Moore and the definitive measures of the older plates by Burns.

The plates are not properly distributed to give an idea of the period in the case of either star.

W. W. Campbell,
J. H. Moore.

## Comet Notes.

In comet affairs a very unusual state exists, no less than four being under observation at date. Three of these have been discovered this year, giving so far an average of one comet per month. Comet *a* 1906 was discovered by **Brooks** at Geneva, New York, on the 26th of January. Two orbits of this comet were computed by Mr. **Champreux** and myself. According to the second set of elements, the comet is moving in a retrograde orbit whose plane is inclined 126° to the ecliptic. Its nearest approach to the Sun was December 22d of last year, when it was one hundred and twenty-one million miles from it. The elements and an ephemeris may be found in *L. O. Bulletin* No. 91.

The second comet of this year was discovered very nearly at opposition by **Kopff** at Heidelberg, March 3d.

So far only a preliminary orbit of this comet has been derived. It is given in *L. O. Bulletin* No. 92. As soon as the weather permits another observation to be made at the Lick Observatory a second orbit will be computed. According to the preliminary elements, this comet is distinguished by having an inclination to the ecliptic of only 1° 8′, which is smaller than that for any other known comet. The nearest approach to the Sun, one hundred and twenty-two million miles, was on the 25th of December last year.

It may be of interest to computers to note that in the case of this comet, a very unfavorable one for the old methods, using **Leuschner**'s short method, the elements were obtained by using six-place logarithms, in three and one half hours actual computing time after the receipt of the third observation.

The third comet of this year was discovered March 17th by Ross at Melbourne, Australia. Unfortunately, ever since its discovery cloudy weather has prevailed on this coast, so that up to date it has not been observed at the Lick Observatory.